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Attorney Ref: HAM-100-A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andrew M. Hiles  
Serial Number: 10/686,857  
Filing Date: 10/16/2003  
Group Art Unit: 1764  
Examiner: Unknown  
Title: DRAGGING AND GAFFING DEVICE

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

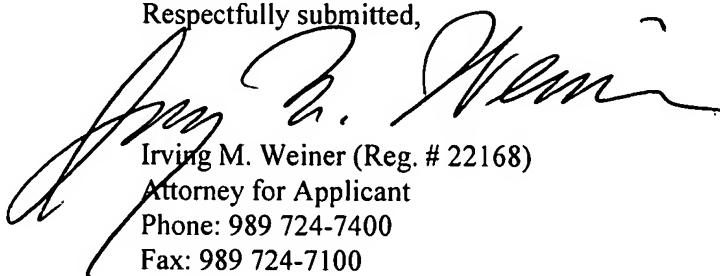
Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.56 and §1.97, applicant herewith submits form PTO/SB/08A, Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant anticipates applicant's invention as defined by the patent claims on file in this application.

Furthermore, applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken singly or in combination, fail to make obvious applicant's invention as defined by the patent claims on file herein.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

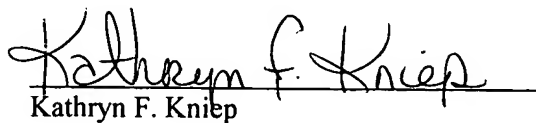


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this transmittal and the document referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the Postal Service on September 15, 2004, as first class mail, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kathryn F. Kniep

IMW/kk  
Encl.



Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/686,857
Filing Date	10/16/2003
First Named Inventor	Andres M. Hiles
Art Unit	1764
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	HAM-100-A

[illegible][illegible]

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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